

Claims

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A multimodal communication method comprising:
  - 5 accessing a multimodal profile that contains at least multimodal preference information associated with at least one input modality and at least one output modality and at least one of: an identifier associated with the multimodal preference information and multimodal preference information; and
  - 10 configuring at least one multimodal communication apparatus for a multimodal communication session based on the accessed multimodal preference information.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of configuring the at least one multimodal communication apparatus for the multimodal communication session based on the accessed multimodal preference information includes using the at least one  
15 identifier to select one of a plurality of stored multimodal preferences from a multimodal profile.
3. The method of claim 2 including the step of configuring at least one multimodal server for a multimodal communication session based on the selected multimodal preference information.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1 including storing a plurality of multimodal preferences for a plurality of different modalities to create a multimodal profile.

5. The method of claim 1 including:

creating at least one multimodal profile by:

presenting a user interface that receives input and output modality  
preference data to define differing multimodal preference information for a  
5 plurality of multimodal communication scenarios associated with a plurality of  
identifiers; and

storing received input and output modality preference data and  
associating an identifier to at least a pair of received input and output modality  
preference data.

10 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the identifier associated with the  
multimodal preference information represents an environmental situation associated  
with a multimodal communication.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the multimodal preference information  
includes ambient condition threshold data associated with at least one identifier.

15 8. The method of claim 5 wherein the multimodal preference information  
includes at least one of: session preference information, media preference information  
including format identifiers to facilitate control of a format of information sent or  
received during the multimodal communication, and input output modality preference  
data.

9. The method of claim 7 including the steps of:

detecting an ambient condition level associated with the  
multimodal communication apparatus,

5 comparing the ambient condition level to the ambient condition  
threshold data; and

selecting a multimodal input and output setting for the  
multimodal communication apparatus based on the comparison.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein available multimodal preference  
information is based on operational capabilities of at least one of: multimodal  
10 communication apparatus capabilities, communication network capabilities, ambient  
conditions, a server that is accessed by the multimodal communication apparatus and a  
service accessed by the multimodal communication apparatus.

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11. A multimodal communication apparatus comprising:

a multimodal profile generator operative to access a multimodal profile that contains at least one of multimodal preference information associated with at least one input modality and at least one output modality and at least one of: an identifier associated with the multimodal preference information and multimodal preference information; and

a multimodal communication apparatus configuration controller, operatively responsive to the accessed multimodal preference information, to configure a multimodal communication apparatus for a multimodal communication session based on the accessed multimodal preference information.

12. The multimodal communication apparatus of claim 12 including:

a user interface, operatively coupled to the multimodal profile generator, that receives input and output modality preference data to define differing multimodal preference information for a plurality of multimodal communication scenarios associated with a plurality of identifiers; and

memory, operatively coupled to the multimodal profile generator, that stores received input and output modality preference data and an associated identifier that has been associated with at least a pair of received input and output modality preference data, as part of the multimodal profile.

13. The multimodal communication apparatus of claim 12 wherein the multimodal communication apparatus configuration controller configures the multimodal communication apparatus for the multimodal communication session based on the accessed multimodal preference information using the at least one identifier to  
5 select one of a plurality of stored multimodal preferences from the multimodal profile.

14. The multimodal communication apparatus of claim 12 wherein the multimodal communication apparatus configuration controller detects an ambient condition level associated with the multimodal communication apparatus,  
compares the ambient condition level to the ambient condition  
10 threshold data; and  
selects a multimodal input and output setting for the multimodal communication apparatus based on the comparison.

15. A multimodal communication system comprising:

(a) a multimodal communication apparatus having:

a multimodal profile generator operative to access a multimodal profile that contains at least one of multimodal preference information associated with at least one input modality and at least one output modality and at least one of: an identifier associated with the multimodal preference information and multimodal preference information;

a multimodal communication apparatus configuration controller, operatively responsive to the accessed multimodal preference information, to configure a multimodal communication apparatus for a multimodal communication session based on the accessed multimodal preference information; and

(b) a multimodal network element, operatively coupled to the multimodal communication apparatus, to provide information during a session with the multimodal communication apparatus.

16. The multimodal communication system of claim 16 including memory, operatively coupled to the multimodal communication apparatus, the memory containing received input and output modality preference data and an associated identifier that has been associated with at least a pair of received input and output modality preference data, as part of the multimodal profile.

17. The multimodal communication system of claim 16 including memory,  
operatively coupled to the multimodal network element, the memory containing  
received input and output modality preference data and an associated identifier that has  
been associated with at least a pair of received input and output modality preference  
5 data, as part of the multimodal profile.

18. The multimodal communication system of claim 16 wherein the  
multimodal communication apparatus includes a user interface, operatively coupled to  
the multimodal profile generator, that receives input and output modality preference  
data to define differing multimodal preference information for a plurality of multimodal  
10 communication scenarios associated with a plurality of identifiers.

19. The multimodal communication system of claim 16 wherein the  
multimodal communication apparatus configuration controller:

detects an ambient condition level associated with the multimodal  
communication apparatus,

15 compares the ambient condition level to the ambient condition  
threshold data; and

selects a multimodal input and output setting for the multimodal  
communication apparatus based on the comparison.

20. The multimodal communication system of claim 15 wherein the  
20 multimodal profile is transferred between the multimodal communication  
apparatus and the multimodal network element.